**Tauparapara to begin a pepeha**

[](http://www.google.co.nz/imgres?imgurl=http://www.birdquest-tours.com/gallery/Kaka-Hannu%20J%C3%A4nnes-324.jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.birdquest-tours.com/gallery.cfm?TourTitle=NEW+ZEALAND&docid=2ayE-mM5RiN5TM&tbnid=22z8YNN1BI_x9M:&w=500&h=430&ei=YhkSVdbsKYbRmwXxh4DoCw&ved=0CAIQxiAwAA&iact=c)More proficient male speakers may begin their pepeha with a tauparapara (*tribal chant*) to alert those present that s/he is about to speak. Traditionally these came from one’s own tribe or the local iwi. There are also a number of tauparapara (awakenings) that are commonly used by all:

**Ka tangi te tītī** The mutton bird calls **Ka tangi te kākā** The kaka calls **Ka tangi hoki ahau** I call also

**Tihēi mauriora** Behold the sneeze of life  
**The saying *Tihēi mauri ora* comes from when Hineahuone (the first made woman) had life breathed into her. The *tihei* is like the sneeze when a child is born, the *mauri* is the force and the *ora* is the life.**

**The titi and the kaka are used in the tauparapara because of their reo, which is crystal clear, in the case of the titi, and continuous in the case of the kaka. Speakers try to let their reo be like these birds. A kereru / pigeon would not be used as the reo of that manu is very soft. Birds are an important part of Māori poetry and culture, each having different meanings.**  
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**He aha te mea nui o te ao?**

**Māku e kī ake** I will say

**He tangata, he tangata, he tangata**.

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**He ika kai ake i raro** As a fish nibbles from below

**[](http://www.google.co.nz/imgres?imgurl=http://www.atownunearthed.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/Walking-up-Round-Hill.jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.atownunearthed.co.uk/gallery/events/castle-hill-walk-september-2010/&docid=YvcpwU-m2f_cbM&tbnid=BVx7YVD6Uih97M:&w=800&h=600&ei=VxoSVcPrBovm8gXw64GQCw&ved=0CAIQxiAwAA&iact=c)He rāpaki ake I raro** So the ascent of a hill begins from below

(Every journey starts with the first small step forward.

Working together must start somewhere)

[](http://www.google.co.nz/imgres?imgurl=http://www.adhd-app.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/attention.png&imgrefurl=http://www.adhd-app.com/2013/02/06/understanding-the-4-types-of-attention/&docid=oIrPvmZzMz07eM&tbnid=Jnf5P-QwGrwgxM:&w=1000&h=867&ei=vxoSVa74HIe0mAXS2oHwCg&ved=0CAIQxiAwAA&iact=c)----------------------------------------------------------------------------

**Tihēi mauriora** Behold the sneeze of life

**Kia hiwa rā, kia hiwa rā.** Be alert, be on the alert

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